

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Frederick
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:

Monocacy Battlefield

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Monocacy Battlefield

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: just SE of the city of Frederick; SW (major) tract: bisected by & accessible from Md. 355; NE tract: bisected by & accessible from US 40

CITY OR TOWN:

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE

Maryland

CODE

COUNTY:

Frederick

CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

public and private owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Frederick County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Monocacy Battlefield is just southeast of the City of Frederick and consists of a southwest tract and northeast tract; these are a little over a mile apart. The major tract is the southwest one, and it is bisected and accessible from State Route 355. The northeast tract is bisected by and accessible from U.S. 40 (the National Road). Together the two tracts total approximately 1,500 acres--the southwest tract is about 1,200 acres, and the northeast approximately 300 acres.

The greater part of the land is in private ownership. The two major exceptions are small tracts where Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Vermont have erected monuments and hold title to land, and the United Daughters of the Confederacy have also erected a monument and hold land. Except for the monuments, no markers indicate key actions.

Despite construction of Interstate 70 much of the battlefield is unchanged. Today, as in 1864, the terrain where most of the fighting occurred is either farmed or in woodland. Important landmarks mentioned by the combatants were the Worthington, Thomas, and Best houses and outbuildings, all in the southwest tract. These still stand as a tangible link with the significant battle that was fought in the area. Most of the houses scattered through the farmland are in good condition, but are not open to the public.

The road network, except for Interstate 70, is similar (though now practically all surfaced) to what it was 108 years ago. The southeastern part of the Old Georgetown Pike remains little changed from the days of the battle; the remainder of it has been superseded by Maryland 355. Although new bridges have replaced those known to the soldiers, the abutments to the old National Road stone bridge in the southeast corner of the northeast tract form an impressive monument. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and Frederick Junction, both in the southwest tract, occupy their historic locations. The Monocacy River that played so vital a role in the battle winds through both tracts toward the Potomac in a still beautiful valley.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

After three years of bitter and bloody civil war, the Confederacy had survived a number of disasters in the Mississippi Valley and still had its two major armies in the field and combat ready. Until the Union crushed these armies the war would continue. President Lincoln placed General Ulysses S. Grant in overall command of Union forces, and he launched his major campaign to destroy General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Grant began his massive move toward Richmond in a series of major engagements.

In June General David Hunter made a blunder in the Shenandoah Valley thrust by withdrawing across the mountains into West Virginia in the face of a counterattack by Confederate forces commanded by General Jubal Early. General Lee moved quickly to capitalize on Hunter's blunder and began a dangerous thrust down the Valley toward Washington or Baltimore.

Bloody fighting developed along the Monocacy River in the vicinity of Frederick Junction. Three days of savage and fluid battles saw a major threat to the National Capital develop. The battle of Monocacy, though ending in the retreat of General Lew Wallace's Union forces at heavy costs, bought the necessary time for a successful defense of Washington. Units were pulled from around Petersburg and transported by ship to Washington while other seasoned veterans were rushed from Hampton Roads, Virginia. The timely arrival of these veteran forces halted the Confederates, and on July 14 General Jubal Early's forces recrossed the Potomac into Virginia. The Nation's capital had been saved from invasion and possible capture by Confederate forces in the summer of 1864.

Despite the construction of Interstate 70 much of Monocacy Battlefield is unchanged. Today, as in 1864, the terrain where most of the fighting occurred is either farmed or wooded. The important landmarks, the Worthington, Thomas, and Best houses and outbuildings (all in the southwest tract) are still standing. The road network, except for I-70, is similar to what it was 108 years ago. The Monocacy River still winds through a beautiful valley toward the Potomac.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harper's Weekly, July 30, 1864.
 Nichols, G.W., A Soldier's Story of His Regiment and Incidentally of the Lawton-Evans Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia (Jesup, 1898).
 Thomas, Henry W., History of the Doles-Cook Brigade Army of Northern Virginia, C.S.A. (Atlanta, 1903).
 Haynes, E.M., A History of the Tenth Regiment Vermont Volunteers (Lewiston, 1870).
 Worthington, Glen, The Battle of Monocacy (Frederick, 1927).
 Worthington, G.H., Fighting for Time or the Battle that Saved Washington and Maryland to the Union (Baltimore, 1932).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	SEE CONTINUATION SHEET FOR	"		"	"	
NE	LATITUDE AND	LONGITUDE		"	"	
SE	"	"		"	"	
SW	"	"		"	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: about 1,500 .

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mr. Horace J. Sheely, Jr., Chief, Historic Sites Survey		
ORGANIZATION Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service	DATE 11/5/73	
STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street, N.W.		
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE D.C.	CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connolly
 Associate Director
 Professional Services

Date NOV 12 1973

ATTEST:
Wm. H. H. H.
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11. 8. 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Frederick
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Monocacy Battlefield (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

(Continued)

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History

Although the Confederacy had suffered a number of disasters in the Mississippi Valley, its two major armies, after three years of war, were in the field and combat ready. Until the Union crushed these armies, the war would continue. To carry out this task, President Abraham Lincoln in March 1864 promoted and placed General Ulysses S. Grant in command of all Union armies.

General Grant made his plans accordingly. He would establish his headquarters in the East with the Army of the Potomac and seek out and destroy General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. General William T. Sherman and his "army group," massed in and around Chattanooga, was given the mission of hammering General Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee.

These Union armies were in motion before the end of the first week in May. Grant began his advance toward Richmond, only to be checked in a series of major battle. Whenever the Confederates checked Grant's advance, he employed his superior numbers to flank them and thrust closer to Richmond until finally he reached a stalemate at Cold Harbor.

A Union initiative up the Shenandoah Valley had similarly ended at New Market. General David Hunter was given command in the Shenandoah and was campaigning brilliantly until General Jubal Early's corps was detached from Lee's army and forced Hunter to withdraw across the mountains into West Virginia. The Shenandoah Valley approach to Washington was left practically unguarded. General Lee moved swiftly to capitalize on Hunter's blunder and General Early turned his army at a rapid march down the Valley.

By July 8 Early's forces were in the vicinity of Frederick, Maryland, and General Lew Wallace hurriedly assembled a force to oppose Early's thrust across the Potomac. At this time Grant had once again been checkmated, this time in the savage fighting around Petersburg. Faced with a direct threat to Washington by Early's advance, he hastily dispatched General James B. Rickett's division by ship to Baltimore where they boarded trains to join Wallace's small army at Frederick Junction. Wallace's command was a motley force composed principally of home guards and 100-day militia, stiffened by several combat--ready units.

An examination of the terrain satisfied Wallace that his only chance of defeating or delaying Early's army was to deploy his force to hold the line of the Monocacy River. Not knowing whether Early was striking for Washington or Baltimore, he would have to guard about three miles of river.

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance

(Continued)

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General Early had his army in motion by daybreak on July 9, 1864, and Frederick was occupied at an early hour. From Frederick, Early prepared units to threaten Baltimore, break the railroads radiating from that city, and to release, if practicable, the Confederate prisoners at Point Lookout.

Midmorning contacts with Union forces made it apparent that a frontal attack across the Monocacy River would be costly. The plan shifted to an effort to turn the Union left and thereby cause the Federals to retreat toward Baltimore and thus uncover the road to Washington. General John McCausland's dismounted cavalry brigade was the first Confederate element to force its way across the Monocacy. He regrouped in Worthington's meadow and began to advance. Additional elements were thrown in by both Confederate and Federal commanders to decide this attack against the Union left, and the battle raged in the area of Worthington's farm. There was savage fighting along the Thomas House Ridge. The Southerners gained the advantage and refused to yield the initiative.

General James Rickett's Union veterans were driven from the Thomas House Ridge and, together with the skirmishers defending the railroad cut at Frederick Junction, raced across the railroad bridge and retreated northward toward the National Road. Pursuing Confederates reached the National Road before most of the force holding the bridgehead west of the Monocacy could cross. A number were captured, but many escaped and rejoined Wallaces's army on its retreat toward Baltimore.

The battle of Monocacy, though ending in Wallace's retreat, was highly significant. The hours gained by General Wallace's troops were vital to the North in preventing a Confederate dash into Washington. At daybreak on July 10, General Early began to move down the Georgetown Pike and was within four miles of Rockville, Maryland, when he halted for the night. The march resumed at dawn on the 11th, and about noon, on an intensely hot day, the vanguard approached Washington via the Seventh Street road and sighted the Capital City.

The Federal Government, however, had made good use of the time bought for it in blood by General Wallace and his men on the Monocacy. Units were pulled from the forces around Petersburg and transported from City Point by steamboat to reach Washington a little before 2 p.m. on the 11th. Eight hundred men of the XIX Corps were rushed from Hampton Roads, Virginia. The timely arrival of these rugged veterans discouraged Early. After making a demonstration in front of Fort Stevens on the afternoon of the 11th and the next day, he recalled his divisions and returned to Virginia by recrossing the Potomac at Whites Ferry on July 14, 1864. The Nation's Capital had been saved from invasion and possible capture by Confederate forces.

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STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Frederick	
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Monocacy Battlefield (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued) page 1

Roe, Alfred S., The Ninth New York Heavy Artillery (Worcester, 1899).

Wild, Frederick W., Memoirs and History of Capt. F. W. Alexander's Baltimore Battery of Light Artillery, U.S.V.C. (Baltimore, 1912).

Gordon, John B. Reminiscences of the Civil War (New York, 1903).

Early Jubal A., War Memoirs: Autobiographical Sketch and Narrative of the War Between the States, edited by Frank Vandives (Bloomington, 1960).

War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 73 vols., 128 parts (Washington 1880-1901).

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Monocacy Battlefield (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

10. Geographical Data

SOUTHWEST TRACT

CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39°	22'	39"	77°	25'	00"
NE	39°	22'	39"	77°	22'	34"
SE	39°	20'	48"	77°	22'	34"
SW	39°	20'	48"	77°	25'	00"

NORTHEAST TRACT

CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39°	24'	38"	77°	22'	28"
NE	39°	24'	31"	77°	21'	37"
SE	39°	23'	27"	77°	22'	09"
SW	39°	23'	48"	77°	23'	07"